

DAMARALAND

Damaraland features vast khaki plains, sheer rocky mountains and incredible desert-adapted wildlife

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Track the endangered black rhino and the elusive desert-adapted elephant

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Visit the largest massif in Namibia: Brandberg Mountain, and see the famed White Lady painting

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Discover the ancient outdoor art gallery at Twyfelfontein with over 2,500 rock artworks

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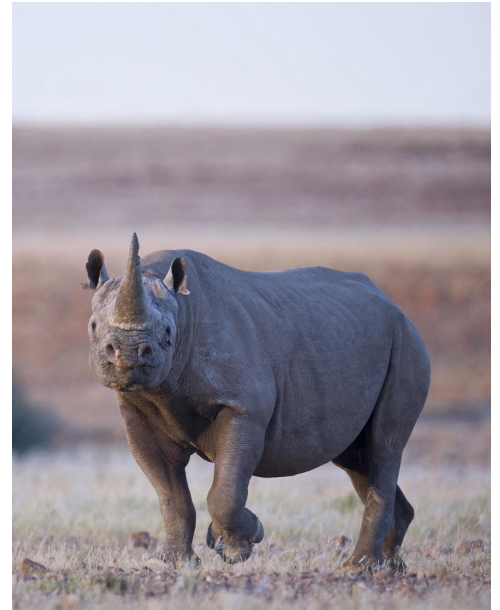
Visit the 280 million year old trees of the Petrified Forest

Damaraland has many **geological and historical attractions**. Giant inselbergs, formed millions of years ago, rise sheer and jagged from the barren plains of the inner Namib Desert. Explore Brandberg - which, in addition to being the highest peak in the country, has the allure of ancient rock paintings and the intriguing White Lady of Brandberg. Explore Burnt Mountain, Organ Pipes, Doros and Messum Craters as well as the 280 million year old trees of the Petrified Forest. At Twyfelfontein discover Southern Africa's finest prehistoric rock art and engravings.

Damaraland's hilly savannah supports **a large number of species** from lion to steenbok and the birdlife is prolific with over 33 raptors recorded. The famous desert-adapted elephants traverse this vast dry land in search of water and the world's only **naturally occurring population of black rhino** co-exists with the Damara communities.



DAMARALAND FACTS



Experience the traditional Damara culture at the Damara Living Museum near Twyfelfontein (left); Namibia holds almost a third of Africa's black rhino population with the last remaining free-ranging population in the Damaraland area (above)

1. Damaraland is named after the Damara people, an ethnic group who make up 8.5% of Namibia's population. The Damara believed in communal ownership of land and it was for this reason that many were displaced when the Nama and Herero began to occupy this area in search of better grazing.
2. Damaraland is one of the least populated parts of Namibia. The area covers more than 160,000 hectares and lies close to the south-western border of Etosha National Park.
3. Damaraland is best known for its spectacular desert scenery and is one of the most picturesque areas in Namibia. It is a massive, untamed region of open grasslands, granite mountains and koppies, ancient forests and underground water courses.
4. While it does not teem with wildlife, Damaraland does boast a large variety of animals. Desert-adapted herbivores including oryx who obtain moisture from plant roots and springbok who have adapted to salty water attract carnivores including lion, hyena and cheetah.
5. Damaraland has a healthy population of desert-adapted elephant (around 150 elephants) who tend to have relatively broader feet, longer legs and smaller bodies than other African bush elephants. These elephants may walk up to 70 kilometres at night to find water points. Namibia is one of only two countries where desert elephants are found.
6. Damaraland is one of the only places in the world where black rhinos can be seen in the wild. While still extremely endangered, conservation efforts have increased the black rhino population of Namibia from 60 in the early 1980's to over 2,000 in 2022.
7. With around 2,500 rock engravings and paintings, Twyfelfontein was declared a national monument in 1952 and UNESCO declared it as a World Heritage Site in 2007. Not far from Twyfelfontein, there are more exciting geographical attractions; Organ Pipes, the Petrified Forest and views of Burnt Mountain.

DAMARALAND LANDMARKS

Brandberg Massif: Covering a space of 650 square kilometres and rising 2,573 metres above sea level, the Brandberg Mountain is also home to the famed White Lady rock painting.

White Lady: While the Brandberg hosts over 1,000 bushmen paintings the White Lady is the most detailed and shows a shaman/lady in a 'hunting scene'.

Organ Pipes: An interesting geological site, The Organ Pipes were formed about 150 million years ago as the result of the intrusion of liquid lava into a slate rock formation which was exposed over time by erosion.

Petrified Forest: While not an actual forest, this collection of fossilized and petrified tree trunks have been dated at 280 million years old which will delight the paleontologist in you.

Twyfelfontein: Meaning 'doubtful spring', Twyfelfontein boasts the largest single concentration of rock art in southern Africa with around 2,500 rock engravings and paintings dated between 1,000 and 10,000 years old.

Burnt Mountain: This 80 million year old stream of lava has solidified into a 12 kilometre long volcanic ridge which creates striking colour contrasts at dusk.

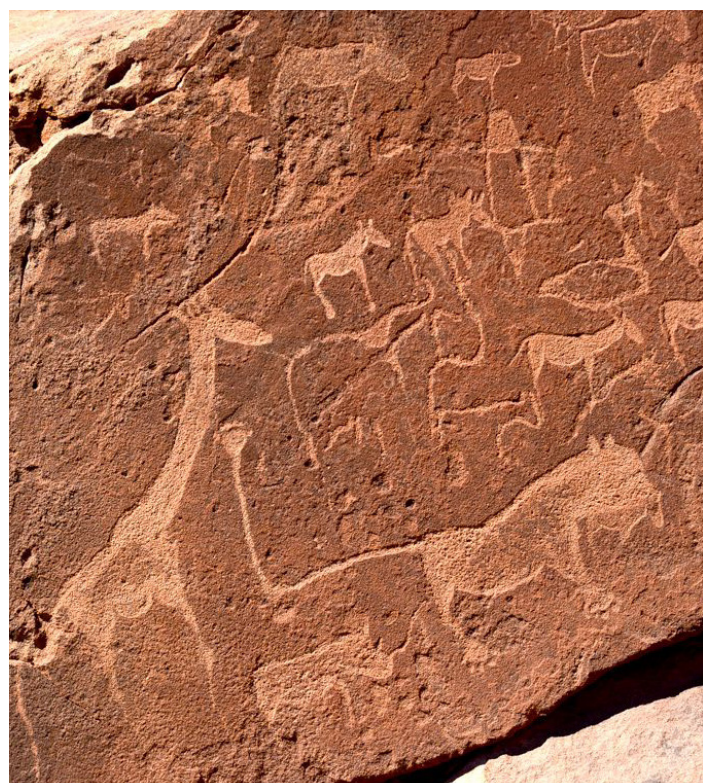
Messum Crater: A 130 million year old crater is a remainder of a gigantic volcanic eruption which measures 20km in diameter.

Vingerklip: This 35 metre high 'finger rock' is a build-up of sedimentary rock layers and is a popular tourist stopover.

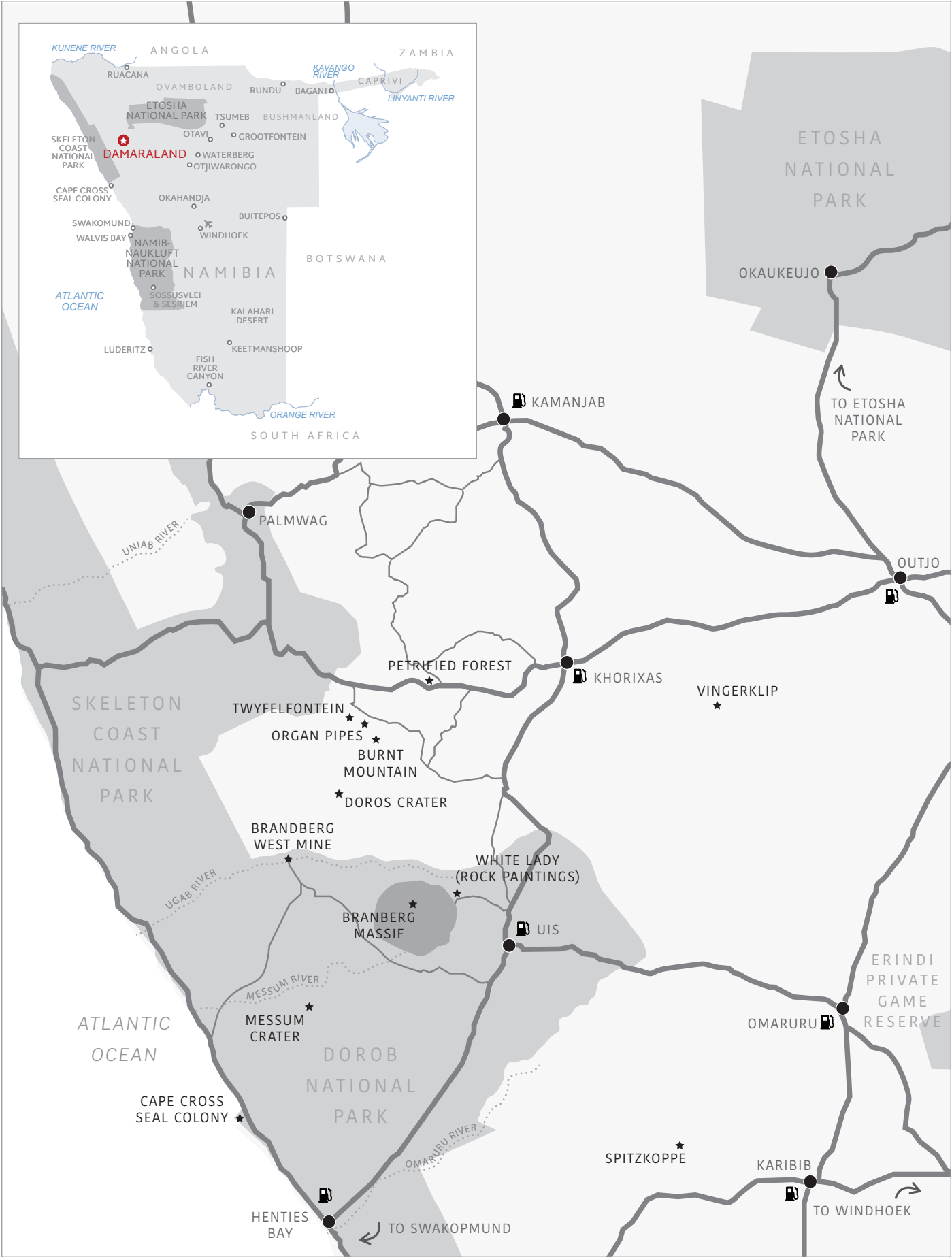
Spitzkoppe: One of Namibia's most photographed mountain motifs, this group of granite peaks offers interesting San rock art, spectacular views, hiking trails and - in summer after some rain - rock pools to cool off in.

Etendeka Walking Trail: A fantastic 3-day guided walking trail into a remote conservation area with breathtaking landscapes.

This arid and unforgiving area supports a surprising variety of wildlife including ostrich (below); Twyfelfontein is an 'open-air gallery' with the largest single concentration of rock art engravings in southern Africa (right)



DAMARALAND MAP



DAMARALAND DISTANCES

Windhoek - Uis	330km	4 - 5 hours	Tarred and gravel road
Windhoek - Twyfelfontein	420km	5 - 6 hours	Partly tarred but mostly gravel road
Windhoek - Spitzkoppe	280km	3 - 4 hours	Mostly tarred road, last 30km gravel road
Swakopmund - Uis	200km	2 - 3 hours	Tarred and gravel roads
Swakopmund - Twyfelfontein	335km	4 - 5 hours	Partly tarred but mostly gravel road
Swakopmund - Spitzkoppe	160km	2 hours	Mostly tarred road, last 30km gravel road
Spitzkoppe - Twyfelfontein	230km	2 - 3 hours	Gravel road
Khorixas - Twyfelfontein	90km	1 - 2 hours	Gravel road
Khorixas - Vingerklip	70km	1 hour	Gravel road
Uis - Brandberg (White Lady)	35km	30 mins	Gravel road
Twyfelfontein - Okaukuejo	345km	4 hours	Partly gravel but mostly tarred road
Twyfelfontein - Palmwag	110km	2 hours	Gravel road
Twyfelfontein - Opuwo	345km	4 - 5 hours	Gravel road

DAMARALAND WEATHER

Damaraland is arid and dry with a semi-desert climate. For the most part it is hot throughout the year and, during summer, daytime temperatures can reach well over 38°C/100°F (from October to March). During the winter months (specifically July to September) you can expect nights to be cold and even fall below freezing. The good news is that you'll thaw during the day again as the sun comes out and temperatures are more moderate in general.

During the summer, also the rainy season, you might see sporadic showers but this is unlikely to affect your trip as these are often just quick bursts of not very heavy rains. In winter, conditions are extremely dry, which means that desert-adapted wildlife are easier to spot around the more permanent water sources - of which there are few.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVERAGE HIGH °C (°F)	33.3 (92)	30.5 (86.9)	30 (86)	31.4 (85.7)	29.8 (83.2)	26.1 (79)	26.9 (80.5)	28.6 (83.4)	34.2 (93.5)	35.6 (96.1)	34.6 (94.3)	32.8 (91)
AVERAGE LOW °C (°F)	16.2 (62.1)	16.8 (62.3)	16.2 (61.2)	13 (55.4)	7.7 (45.9)	3.9 (39)	6.1 (42.9)	7.6 (45.6)	11.7 (53.1)	14.2 (57.5)	15 (59)	15.6 (60.1)
DAILY MEAN °C (°F)	23.6 (74.5)	22.3 (72.2)	21.4 (70.6)	20.5 (68.9)	17.6 (63.6)	14.4 (57.9)	16.3 (61.3)	17.7 (63.9)	23.1 (73.6)	25 (77)	24.2 (75.6)	22.7 (72.9)
AVERAGE RAINFALL MM (INCHES)	20 (0.8)	43 (1.7)	66 (2.6)	23 (0.9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0.1)	5 (0.2)

